

BUILDINGS GIVE WAY WITH CRASH

Hotel Annex and Adjoining Structures at Petersburg a Mass of Ruins.

LOSS IS VERY HEAVY

Accident Alleged to Have Been Caused by Rotting of Brick Walls.

Times-Dispatch Bureau, 109 North Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Va., April 14.—An accident resulting in the destruction of two large brick buildings on Sycamore Street, midway between Tabb and Bank Streets, and in the business center of the city, occurred to-day about 11 o'clock. Fortunately, full warning of the accident had been given, all the inmates had retired, the street in the vicinity had been planked off and guarded to prevent travel and traffic, and no one was hurt.

The two buildings destroyed were the handsome four-story annex of the Chesterfield Hotel, owned by John J. Hanrahan, and the adjoining three-story brick store, owned by Thomas F. Knock and occupied for years by J. O. James, a shoe store. Between the hotel annex and the shoe store there was a common wall. Mr. James had in stock \$25,000 or \$20,000 worth of goods.

This morning about 3 o'clock, while the hotel annex was being decorated by a noise as of cracking timbers, as though some accident had happened or was threatened. Investigation showed that the lower front walls of both buildings were bulging and apparently weakening. The masonry of the hotel was at once warned of danger and gotten out. Occasionally during the morning hours there were sharp jolts in the building, with evidence of the sinking of the front walls. The front windows and framework of the two houses were eventually crushed in and the walls cracked. At 11 o'clock, with a great roar and crash, amidst a blinding cloud of dust, the two buildings fell to the ground, the fall being witnessed by a dense crowd of people, who had collected above and below the scene. The annex carried down with it all its furniture and contents, and Mr. James' stock of goods was buried in the debris and practically ruined. The upper floors of the James building were occupied as a tailoring establishment by John N. Peaman, and his stock was buried in the ruins.

Loss Is Heavy.

The loss is heavy, reaching up in many thousands of dollars. While the buildings and stocks were insured against fire, there is no insurance against accidents of this kind, and the loss falls heavily on the owners. The cause of the disastrous accident is believed to have been due to rotten and crumbling bricks in the lower portion of the wall separating the buildings. Experts who went into the adjoining cellars early this morning before the crash, discovered this defect in the wall several feet above the foundation. The crushing out of these rotten bricks by the great weight upon them is believed to have caused the collapse. Mr. Hanrahan had improved the first floor of the hotel annex with the intention of establishing a first-class restaurant, and had deepened the basement to lay a concrete floor, but the excavation did not go down to within two or three feet of the foundation, and consequently could not have weakened the wall.

A strong force of men was put to work promptly to remove and haul away the debris, and to save as much as possible of Mr. James' large stock of shoes. It is expected that the erection of new buildings will be begun without delay. The Chesterfield Hotel property is uninjured. The fruit store occupied by V. Russo, adjoining Mr. James' store, was only slightly injured by the collapse of its neighbors. Besides the furniture, three valuable new pianos in the hotel annex were destroyed. In the annex were twenty-two rooms, the hotel proper was thoroughly examined to-day by experts, and pronounced safe in all respects, and it was opened for business as usual. In fixing the responsibility for the cause of the accident it is thought probable that suits may result. Mr. Hanrahan's individual loss is about \$15,000. Mr. Peaman's loss is between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Mr. James' loss on stock cannot be ascertained. Mr. Knock's loss on building is \$6,000 or \$5,000.

MAY LEAVE VIRGINIA.

Dr. Bowen Offered Chair of English in Sewanee College. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] ASHLAND, VA., April 14.—A report has been current here to the effect that Dr. Edwin Wingfield Bowen, professor of Latin in Randolph-Macon College, had been offered the chair of English at Sewanee University, in Tennessee, otherwise known as the University of the South, but not until to-day was this rumor verified and now general regret is being expressed over the probability of Dr. Bowen's resignation from the faculty of Randolph-Macon College.

The offer is a flattering one, combining with it unusual advantages. It includes the editorship of the Sewanee Review, a magazine known throughout the South, and containing much of the South's best present-day literature. Dr. Bowen is eminently fitted for this kind of work, as the success of his latest books attests. These are "Makers of American Literature" and "Questions at Issue in Our English Speech."

Dr. Bowen is a graduate of Randolph-Macon College of the class of '84. With this A. M. from here, he took a postgraduate course at the Johns Hopkins University, being



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awarded his Ph. D. in 1892. Dr. Bowen later was an assistant professor of English at the University of Missouri, and spent a year at the University of Leipzig specializing in English and allied subjects, and since 1891 has been a member of the faculty at Randolph-Macon as professor of Latin. Dr. Bowen is a member of the American Philological Association, also of the Modern Language Association of America, and is the author of such treatises as "Historical Study of the O-Vowel in English," "Historical Study of the O-Vowel in English," etc.

The chair at Sewanee was made vacant by the death of Dr. John B. Henneman, a well-known educator of the South. Dr. Henneman was formerly of the University of Tennessee. In case of acceptance, Dr. Bowen will enter upon his new duties at the beginning of the fall term.

OFFICIAL REGISTER OUT.

Interesting Facts About V. M. L. Given to Public.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] LEXINGTON, VA., April 14.—The official register of the Virginia Military Institute for the session of 1908-1909 has been issued. The publication has a pleasing form, and is larger than in previous years. The enrollment for the session of 1908-1909, including three graduate students, following is the enrollment by classes: First class, 44; second class, 50; third class, 106; fourth class, 152. By States the enrollment is as follows: Virginia, 100; North Carolina, 17; Georgia and Maryland, each 17; Alabama, Missouri and New York, each 14; Kentucky, Mississippi and North Carolina, each ten, and from that the number falls to one in the Territories and Territories, including the Philippines, are represented in the enrollment.

The academic staff consists of twenty-one professors and instructors, with General Edward Nichols, superintendent, and General Scott Shipp, L. D., superintendent emeritus.

OCTOGENARIAN'S SUICIDE.

Aged Resident of Staunton Shoots Himself.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] STAUNTON, VA., April 14.—Harman J. Lashbaugh, for many years the leading contractor and builder and the oldest citizen of Staunton, committed suicide to-day by shooting himself in the mouth with a revolver. He was eighty-six years old. He had been disabled for some time with rheumatism. He leaves a wife and several children.

Fugitive Is Captured. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] VINCHESTER, VA., April 14.—James Berry, who escaped from Clarke county jail at Berryville recently by sawing his way through the prison bars, was arrested to-day in Pittsburg, Pa. His brother, who is suspected of rendering assistance, was also arrested. Sheriff Levi left Berryville to-night to get the men.

Declared Not Guilty. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] ASHLAND, VA., April 14.—A jury in the Corporation Court this afternoon returned a verdict of "not guilty" in the case of T. C. Roderick, formerly superintendent of the Ashland Electric Light Company, charged with embezzling funds belonging to that company.

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COURT WILL TEST "BEER" CASE

"Wets" and "Drys" of Suffolk Arrange to Bring About an Understanding.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] SUFFOLK, VA., April 14.—To determine the status of the "beer" traffic in "dry" territory, under the provisions of the Byrd law, there was a conference this afternoon, among those present being Citizens Judge James L. McLemore, Commonwealth's Attorney James C. Burges, Town Attorney Robert W. Withers, Judge R. H. Rawles, and James H. Corbett, representing the brewers, and Lee Drift, counsel for the Citizens' League, which has a \$5,000 fund subscribed to prosecute liquor law violations.

There was an agreement to have a test case called April 27. It is proposed that the case be fictitious in a sense. A defendant, who does not deal in beer, will plead guilty to selling a beverage containing less than 1.4 per cent alcohol, and the matter will be cited to a higher court for decision. Town and county officials have had many complaints since Suffolk went dry, and all concerned are anxious for an understanding.

ANTI-SALOONISTS MEET.

An Enthusiastic Gathering of Leaguers at Oakley.

ONANCOCK, VA., April 14.—The eighth annual meeting of the Anti-Saloon League for this county was held at Oakley. The attendance was large and much enthusiasm shown. G. W. Water Mapp was re-elected chairman. The action of the State League at the meeting in Norfolk was approved. Committee reports showed that the Byrd law was being enforced, and that there was a marked decrease in the number of violations. Addresses were made by the State president, J. H. McAllister, Field Secretary Rev. Walton Rhodes, Rev. R. S. Bonds, and Judge William H. Mann.

A very large crowd assembled at the courthouse last night to witness the awarding of crosses to Confederate veterans. Owing to some misunderstanding, only four crosses were received. They were awarded to Thomas C. Kelly, John H. Wise, Purnell O. Twyford, and Peter Payne. They were pinned on by Miss Margie A. W. Curtis, Judge Mann making the address. War songs were sung, and the past lived over again by many.

MAY ISSUE BONDS.

Warren County Purpose to Build Permanent Highway.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] FRONT ROYAL, VA., April 14.—The Board of Supervisors of this county at a meeting held yesterday decided to issue bonds to extend the public highway. If the voters decide in favor of issuing these bonds the highway will be built with convict labor and under the supervision of the State Highway Commissioner. It is the intention of the supervisors to build for the present but ten miles of road.

Last fall, when the voters of this place decided to erect a new \$20,000 school building, plans were made to issue bonds. These bonds were subscribed for by the citizens of this town, thereby saving the necessity of taxing the farmers of this county. It is presumed that the road bonds will be subscribed for locally, as at present the farmers of this county are prosperous and are in a position to take them.

CHILD CRUSHED TO DEATH.

Caught in Machinery While at Play in Great Mill.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WARRENTON, VA., April 14.—While playing in the mill with a crowd of children, the four-year-old daughter of Frank Brown, who has a large grist mill near Waterloo, was caught in the moving machinery and crushed so badly that she died in a few hours afterwards. The children who were with the little girl at the time she was caught, instead of calling for help, the moment the child was caught in the wheels, ran some distance to the nearby aid, and the time the help arrived the little child was crushed beyond recognition.

Committee Meets.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] LEXINGTON, VA., April 14.—A meeting of the executive committee of the Virginia State Christian Endeavor Union was held at Buena Vista Monday afternoon for the purpose of arranging for the State convention to be held in the First Christian Church of Roanoke, June 22-24.

Drops Dead in Post-Office.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] ALEXANDRIA, VA., April 14.—While walking to a box in the city post-office to get the mail for the firm of Walter Thorne, by whom he was employed, Richard Lyles, sixty-four years old, dropped dead this afternoon. Besides his wife, two daughters and a son survive.

P. A. ACTIVE AT FREDERICKSBURG

New Post Is Organized, with Nineteen Members—Ready for Summer Institute.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] FREDERICKSBURG, VA., April 14.—A Travelers' Protective Association post was organized here last night with nineteen members. The following officers were elected: D. S. Quinton, president; E. M. Young, vice-president; M. G. Willis, secretary and treasurer. Rev. R. H. Rowe has purchased from the estate of C. W. Collins the splendid "Holly Hill" property, containing 1,000 acres, located between Milford and Bowling Green, in Caroline county, for \$12,500.

Fresh fish continue scarce and high. Reports from the big seines on the fishing shores of the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers are not encouraging. Captain E. Gibson, at Wideswater, is making small hauls. Paunce at Marlboro, and Jennings, at Passapatanzy, and Herring & Pyke, at the Big Guns, have seines running, and Bowie, who has been running a seine at Pratt's Point, cut out on account of small catches, but will start again if the fish run well. Gillers and trappers on Aquia and Potomac Creeks, in Stafford county, near this city, are doing well.

Summer Institute.

Arrangements have been completed for the State Summer Institute to be held in this city in the new public school building from June 20 to July 31. A. B. Chandler, Jr., is conductor, and Granville R. Swift, local manager. One of the attractions during the sessions will be a series of illustrated nature lectures by Dr. Edward F. Bigelow, nature editor of St. Nicholas Magazine. Last year 232 teachers attended this institute, and it is expected that the attendance this year will be considerably larger. The faculty is a very strong one and is composed of the following: A. B. Chandler, Edward F. Bigelow, Granville R. Swift, John S. Myers, Arthur D. Wright, J. P. Neff, Carl W. Stead, W. N. Hamlet, Miss Natalie Lancaster, Miss Kate E. Garrett, Miss M. Lavina Critz, Miss Virginia M. Goodrick, Miss Mamie H. Blackburn, Miss Mary Arrington.

A bazaar, under the auspices of the organization of Elks of this city, commenced in the Opera House here last night, and will continue each night throughout the week.

Rev. J. Sidney Peters, of Petersburg, and Rev. W. A. Christian, of Richmond, will do the preaching at Marvin Grove camp meeting, in Northumberland county, during the encampment this summer.

The fire team of the Fredericksburg Power Company over the Rappahannock River, just above this city, will be completed in about thirty days. The sawmill and lath mill, near Mine Run, belonging to J. R. Sullivan, was destroyed by fire, originating from a pile of sawdust, which had been burning for several days. Loss about \$700. There was no insurance. The mill will be replaced.

A heavy rain fell here last night and to-day, putting an end to the spring drought which has been prevailing for the past month, reviving the spirits of the farmers, who had begun to feel blue about hay and pasture prospects. Plowing has resumed, and corn and other spring crops, and all vegetation is taking on new life.

Has Old Spurs.

General D. D. Wheeler, a retired United States Army officer, of this city, has a pair of army spurs which he has placed for the past forty-seven years. He wore them in the battles around Fredericksburg during the Civil War, when he was General Weitzel's staff at Chickamauga, in Texas, California, in the West and East and in all his army life. He is still fond of horses.

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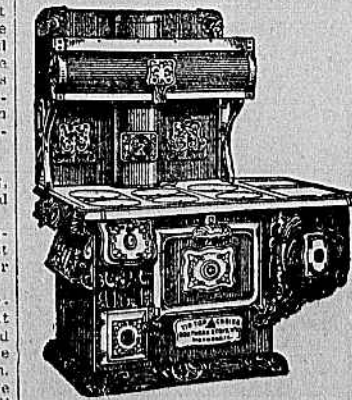
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back riding and uses his spurs in pleasure rides.

Judge Alvin T. Embrey has conveyed to his mother, Mrs. Sarah E. Embrey, his property on Hanover Street, in this city, which he has occupied as his home. Judge Embrey has purchased the Forbes property on the same street, which is being improved, and will move there in a short time.

Contracts for the erection of a large electric generating plant in this city have been let in part, and contracts for a large water wheel were awarded yesterday.

The residence of Clarence F. Hicks, in Caroline county, was damaged by fire a few nights ago, but the damage was fortunately extinguished. The property was insured for \$2,500.

The following have been elected vestrymen of St. George's Episcopal Church in this city: Judge A. W. Wallace, senior warden; A. B. Botts, junior warden; H. R. Hall, A. P. Thornton, D. Tappett, Judge R. H. L. Child, Judge Alvin T. Embrey, E. J. Smith, M. M. Lewis, Dr. J. F. Thompson, A. Randolph Howard and E. M. Young.

Trinity Episcopal Church has elected the following vestrymen: W. H. Richards, George B. Pearson, John D. Bleight, John Scott Berry, S. G. Wallace, C. R. Howard, John T. Brauer, W. F. Coates, W. Key Howard and George Bleight.

RICHMOND MAN HONORED.

Lewis Dawley Made Senior Vice-Commander of the G. A. R. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] HAMPTON, VA., April 14.—The feature of the twenty-eighth annual session of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Virginia and North Carolina, at the National Soldiers' Home here to-day, was the presence of General Henry M. Nevins, the national commander. There were eighty delegates in attendance. General Nevins made an address. Captain Frank W. Work, of the National Home, was chosen as the commander, with Lewis Dawley, of Richmond, as senior vice-commander. W. S. Wilson, of Richmond, was elected delegate to the national encampment at Salt Lake City next August.

Most of the afternoon session was taken up with a reception to Grand Commander Nevins, and the encampment adjourned at 7 o'clock, following the election of officers. A handsome gold badge was presented by the grand commander to Captain A. A. Hager, the adjutant and assistant quartermaster-general of this department.

CHARGE IS DISMISSED.

Negro Who Caused Officer's Arrest Is Held for Perjury. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NORFOLK, VA., April 14.—Patrolman Buck White, charged with reckless shooting, was dismissed in the Police Court this morning, following a preliminary hearing, and Newton Wall, who made the charge, was bound over to the Corporation Court on the charge of perjury.

White was charged with shooting Wall in the back during a raid Sunday night. When Dr. Dupuy, who examined the negro, was called to the stand, he testified that the wound was a mere scratch, and was not made by a bullet, as the negro claimed. He said further that the abrasion on the back was caused by some blunt object by scraping.

The case against White was promptly dismissed and the negro held for perjury.

HAVE NARROW ESCAPE.

Two Aged Men Caught in Swollen Waters of Shenandoah River. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WOODSTOCK, VA., April 14.—While crossing the Shenandoah River, which is very high on account of more than an inch and a quarter of rain having fallen last night, William R. Cline and J. W. McInture, two aged men of Edinburg, narrowly escaped drowning to-day. The two were swept more than a mile before it reached the bank, where they were rescued with difficulty.

Will Have Pipe Organ. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] BOYDTON, VA., April 14.—St. James Episcopal Church, of this place, is to have a \$1,000 pipe organ. Already over \$800 and \$700 has been subscribed by a portion of the members and the organ assured. St. James has a vested choir, consisting of eighteen members, organized about two years ago.

What is known as the "Blues" is seldom occasioned by actual existing external conditions, but in the great majority of cases by a disordered liver.

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News of Petersburg

Times-Dispatch Bureau, 109 North Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Va., April 14.

It is expected that a largely signed petition will be presented to Judge Mullen this week or next, asking him to order a local option election to decide the question of license or no license for the sale of liquor in Petersburg. It is reported that a meeting of the committee having the matter in charge was held last night for the purpose of perfecting details in reference to the election, and it is said that the petition for signatures is being circulated.

In this connection, it is reported that a movement is on foot among the business men of the city and others

Interested to organize a Personal Liberty Association, similar to that in Richmond, to oppose and protest against any agitation of the liquor question in the city at this time. It is claimed that in Petersburg is one of the most orderly cities in the State, that there is a minimum of drunkenness here; that the saloons have been reduced in number and confined to practically one section of the city; that they have been eradicated from the residential and outlying sections, and that they are conducted under the strictest of restrictions. And it is further claimed that under these circumstances agitation for prohibition would be harmful to the city's welfare.

Personal and Otherwise.

The condition of Augustus Wright, who is ill of pneumonia, is reported as showing no improvement to-day.

Mrs. Jagland, wife of Captain Emmet Jagland, of the Atlantic Coast Line, is quite ill of pneumonia at her home on High Street.

Theodore Charles, a Greek, thirty-six years of age, died this morning at the Petersburg Hospital, where he had been a patient for several weeks. He was respected by all who knew him. He is survived by his parents, who live in Constantinople. His funeral will take place to-morrow and the services will be conducted by a Greek priest from Washington.

C. Fisher Collier has resigned as secretary and treasurer of the Oaks Warehouse Company, and Alfred Friend has been elected in his place. The other officers of the company are: President, W. L. Venable, Vice-President, Joseph E. Venable.

Miss Nannie McIlwaine, daughter of A. G. McIlwaine, and daughter of A. G. McIlwaine, was married in Washington, D. C., this evening.

Dr. Bowen Offered Chair of English in Sewanee College. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] ASHLAND, VA., April 14.—A report has been current here to the effect that Dr. Edwin Wingfield Bowen, professor of Latin in Randolph-Macon College, had been offered the chair of English at Sewanee University, in Tennessee, otherwise known as the University of the South, but not until to-day was this rumor verified and now general regret is being expressed over the probability of Dr. Bowen